

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
VICTORIA DIVISION**

STATE OF TEXAS,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *et al.*,

Defendants,

and

FIEL HOUSTON and REFUGEE AND
IMMIGRANT CENTER FOR EDUCATION
AND LEGAL SERVICES,

Intervenor-Defendants.

Case No. 6:21-cv-00003

PROPOSED ANSWER OF INTERVENORS

Proposed Intervenor, FIEL Houston and Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (“RAICES”), file this Answer in response to Plaintiff’s Complaint, as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. In response to Paragraphs 1-2 of the Complaint, Intervenor deny the allegations.

I. PARTIES

2. In response to Paragraphs 3-4 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

3. In response to Paragraph 5 of the Complaint, Intervenor deny the allegations.

4. In response to Paragraph 6 of the Complaint, Intervenor admit the allegations.

5. In response to Paragraph 7 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required.

6. In response to Paragraphs 8-12 of the Complaint, the allegations include legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any factual allegations, Intervenor admit the allegations.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. In response to Paragraphs 13-15 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

A. The Agreement

8. In response to Paragraphs 16-17 of the Complaint, the allegations include legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

9. In response to Paragraphs 18-22 of the Complaint, which quote a purported agreement between Plaintiff and the Department of Homeland Security that Plaintiff submitted at ECF No. 1-1, that document speaks for itself. To the extent Paragraphs 18-22 contain any additional factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

10. In response to Paragraph 23 of the Complaint, which references ECF No. 1-1, that document speaks for itself. In response to the other allegations in Paragraph 23 of the Complaint, Intervenor are without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations and therefore deny the allegations.

B. The January 20 Memorandum

11. In response to Paragraph 24 of the Complaint, which quotes a memorandum that Plaintiff submitted at ECF No. 1-2, that document speaks for itself. To the extent Paragraph 24 contains any additional factual allegations, Intervenor admit the allegations.

12. In response to Paragraph 25 of the Complaint, which quotes ECF No. 1-2, that document speaks for itself. To the extent Paragraph 25 contains any additional factual allegations, Intervenor denies the allegations.

13. In response to Paragraph 26 of the Complaint, Intervenor deny the allegations.

14. In response to Paragraph 27 of the Complaint, which quotes ECF No. 1-2, that document speaks for itself. To the extent Paragraph 27 contains any additional factual allegations, Intervenor admit the allegations.

15. In response to Paragraph 28 of the Complaint, Intervenor are without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations and therefore deny the allegations.

16. In response to Paragraph 29 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any factual allegations, Intervenor's admit that no formal notice-and-comment proceedings occurred, and otherwise deny the allegations.

17. In response to Paragraph 30 of the Complaint, Intervenor's deny the allegations.

C. Imminent and Irreparable Harms to Texas

18. In response to Paragraphs 31-33 of the Complaint, which quote ECF No. 1-1, that document speaks for itself. To the extent Paragraphs 31-33 contain any additional factual allegations, Intervenor's deny the allegations.

19. In response to Paragraphs 34-36 of the Complaint, Intervenor's are without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations and therefore deny the allegations.

20. In response to Paragraph 37 of the Complaint, Intervenor's deny the allegations.

IV. CLAIMS

COUNT I

Failure to Provide Notice to and Consult with Texas

21. In response to Paragraph 38, Intervenor's incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.

22. In response to Paragraph 39 of the Complaint, Intervenor's are without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations and therefore deny the allegations.

23. In response to Paragraphs 40-42 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

COUNT II

Failure to Remove Illegal Aliens in Violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1231

24. In response to Paragraph 43, Intervenor incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.

25. In response to Paragraphs 44-45 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

26. In response to Paragraphs 46-47 of the Complaint, which quotes ECF No. 1-2, that document speaks for itself. The other allegations in Paragraphs 46-47 are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any other factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

27. In response to Paragraphs 48-49 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required.

COUNT III

Failure to Take Care that the Laws be Faithfully Executed

28. In response to Paragraph 50, Intervenor incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.

29. In response to Paragraphs 51-52 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required.

30. In response to Paragraphs 53-55 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

31. In response to Paragraphs 56-57 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required.

COUNT IV

Arbitrary and Capricious Agency Action

32. In response to Paragraph 58, Intervenor incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.

33. In response to Paragraph 59 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required.

34. In response to Paragraph 60 of the Complaint, which quotes ECF No. 1-1, that document speaks for itself. To the extent Paragraph 60 contains any additional factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

35. In response to Paragraphs 61-64 of the Complaint, Intervenor deny the allegations; Paragraphs 61-64 also contain legal conclusions to which no response is required.

COUNT IV

Failure to Follow the Requirements of Notice-and-Comment Rulemaking

36. In response to Paragraph 65, Intervenor incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.

37. In response to Paragraphs 66 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

38. In response to Paragraph 67 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any factual allegations, Intervenor admit that no formal notice-and-comment proceedings occurred, and otherwise deny the allegations.

COUNT V

Failure to Promote the Removal of Illegal Aliens

39. In response to Paragraph 68, Intervenor incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.

40. In response to Paragraph 69 of the Complaint, which quotes ECF No. 1-1, that document speaks for itself. To the extent Paragraph 69 contains any additional factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

41. In response to Paragraphs 70-72 of the Complaint, the allegations are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an answer is required regarding any factual allegations, Intervenor deny the allegations.

V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

42. The allegations contained in this section of the Complaint consist of Plaintiff's request for relief, to which no response is required, but insofar as an answer is deemed required, Intervenor's deny that Plaintiff is entitled to the requested relief or to any relief whatsoever. Each and every allegation not heretofore expressly admitted or denied is denied.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

1. This Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction.
2. This suit is barred by sovereign immunity.
3. Venue is improper.
4. Plaintiff fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.
5. The purported agreement between Plaintiff and the Department of Homeland Security is void, invalid, and unenforceable.
6. The Department of Homeland Security and any person purporting to sign on its behalf had no authority to enter into the purported agreement with Plaintiff.
7. Plaintiff lacks standing under Article III of the U.S. Constitution and cannot demonstrate irreparable injury.
8. Plaintiff's claims may be barred in whole or in part under unclean hands.
9. Plaintiff's alleged injuries were caused by third parties.
10. Intervenor's have, or may have, additional affirmative defenses that are not yet known but may become known through future discovery. Intervenor's assert each and every affirmative defense as may be ascertained.

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Respectfully submitted,

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**pro hac vice forthcoming*